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MINERAL RESOURCES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. L. Hjelmaker (Sweden), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.8

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 1/ and of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

Recalling also its resolutions 1985/47 of 25 July 1985, 1987/8 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/5 of 22 May 1989 concerning mineral resources,

Stressing the significance of mineral resources in the economic and social development of the developing countries,

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1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Reaffirming the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

Recognizing the need for substantial flows of financial resources and transfer of technology to developing countries to enable them to explore and develop their mineral resources,

Acknowledging the important role that the United Nations system can play in the field of mineral resources, through, inter alia, its technical cooperation activities and advisory services in support of mineral resources exploration and development in the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the invaluable impact of small-scale mining on the economic and social development process of the developing countries and its identification as an economic activity providing significant employment opportunities,

Aware of the need to balance small-scale mining operations with the improvement of social working conditions and benefits and the consideration of health and safety hazards,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources: a review of recent supply, demand/consumption and price trends" 3/ and "Small-scale mining prospects in developing countries: a review of recent activities"; 4/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on ways and means to facilitate the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries in order to enable them to optimize the exploration and development of their mineral sectors;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in his report information on existing programmes in governmental, intergovernmental and, to the extent possible, private programmes as well as proposals for investment possibilities in developing countries to support the efforts of developing countries in securing investments they require for the development of their mineral resources;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in his report the conclusions and recommendations of meetings and seminars relating to mineral resources, in particular, the Conference on Mining and Environment, to be held

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3/ E/C.7/1991/4.

4/ E/C.7/1991/5.

in Berlin in June 1991, including the feasibility of establishing geological information systems in developing countries to assist the development of mineral resources, for consideration of and follow-up action by the Committee at its thirteenth session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Committee on Natural Resources on recent positive achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries, national legislation regarding the activities of enterprises in this area as well as on progress achieved in the establishment of demonstration and training projects for the transfer of small-scale mining technology, methods and national approaches and international cooperation for maximizing the benefits of small-scale mining for economic and social development in developing countries, including information on the economic contribution of women in small-scale mining.